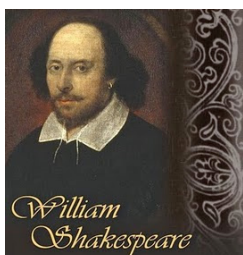




NCDC uses Twitter to add excitement during the show.
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Spring show cancelled. Page 7



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Dordt College

19 April 2012

Issue 21

Is Dordt losing sight of its Reformed vision?

Kelly Zatlin
Editor

Seven years after Dordt's 50th anniversary, when English Professor Jim Schaap's speech "Jubilee" was presented and published, questions are still being raised amongst faculty regarding Dordt's role as a Reformed Christian institution, specifically how well the original vision of the college is being carried out, and if that vision is even an issue that needs discussion.

Schaap's "Jubilee" tells the haunting story of a small school in South Dakota that closed its doors just 39 years after it began. The speech also mentions the names of five Midwest colleges that were forced to close down, in large part because their original visions were lost amidst the changing world around them. In his speech, Schaap, though recognizing Dordt's many blessings and achievements, fears this same loss.

"...And I know—I can feel it in my bones—that the original vision for this institution, a college rooted in the Reformed tradition, has altered, as all things must, in the withering movements of time itself," said Schaap in "Jubilee."

When Dordt (originally called Midwest Christian Ju-

nior College) opened its doors in 1955, its founding president, B.J. Haan, intended the college to be Reformed through and through. In 1956, when the name was changed to Dordt College, he told the Sioux Center News that "the name 'Dordt' will constantly remind us of the heritage in which we are rooted and the goals we should strive for. It will give us a constant source of inspiration to continue in the faith of the fathers. It will tell all people everywhere just exactly what we are and what we stand for."

Currently, questions like "What does it mean to be a Reformed college?" and "Is Dordt still carrying out its original mission as a Reformed institution?" are being discussed. Some, however, wonder if those questions are being discussed in the proper places.

Others may ask what "Reformed" even means and why it matters. What does it matter if Dordt is Reformed or non-denominational, or just broadly Christian? According to its founder and those who have a history with this college, such questions do matter. Dordt's "Reformed perspective" on every aspect of life is what has defined the institution for over 50 years.

Retiring Professor of History

Keith Sewell believes that defining an institution as "Reformed" is not an easy thing to do because there is no one definition of a "Reformed worldview."

"One has to face the reality that can mean different things for different people," said Sewell. "Now, for the kind of people who have focused on Dordt College, I suppose it very much means 'Reformed' as understood by the great Dutchman, Abraham Kuiper. There's no doubt that B.J. Haan, the first president, and his successors were quite strongly committed to that, and many of the faculty still are. But I think it's getting harder to find faculty who understand what that means."

Aaron Baart, the Dean of Chapel here at Dordt, described how Dordt implements the "Reformed worldview" in all aspects of the college. "The most significant part of it has to do with the emphasis on the sovereignty of God in all of life.

In some Christian settings you wouldn't talk about your faith and your work, or your faith and your study; [it means] to try to be incredibly consistent in terms of applying your faith, not just having bible classes in your curriculum, but by talking about what does Christ's Lordship look like in chemistry, and in journalism, etc."



Photo by Anna Stadem

Theology professor Jason Lief also explained what he thinks a Reformed college should look like. "One of the things that a Reformed college should be about is helping people explore the world and the culture that we inhabit so that we don't view our Christianity as just this thing about going to heaven when we die, but it's about a lived form of discipleship in the context of the world...We're not separatists; we're not trying to separate ourselves out. We're trying to figure out what it means to follow Christ in the context of creation and in the context of the world."

While some faculty members worry that this foundation may be getting overlooked in order to keep up with the times and the culture, many still believe

that Dordt has not strayed from its Reformed ideals in campus ministries, in the administration, nor in the classroom. They speculate that changes have occurred on different levels, but that those changes are a result of a changing culture. Most understand that there is a broader context of understanding involved with the Reformed faith and how it is practiced in various churches, as well as at Dordt.

Concerning Reformed worship and campus ministries, Baart explained, "I don't think our worship has moved away from being 'Reformed,' I think it's reminded us that the Reformed umbrella is bigger than we give it credit for. I think before people have often meant and thought that when I say... (continues on Page 2)

Being prepared: Dordt's response to Oikos University shooting



Kelsey Sederstrom
Staff Writer

On April 2, Oikos University, in Oakland, California, suffered great tragedy as a gunman opened fire, killing seven people and injuring three more. Lately, it seems

that educational institutions are increasingly the targets of shootings.

Consequently, colleges are questioning their methods of security and wondering if they are at risk for such an attack as well. If this happened at a Christian college, who is safe? How can colleg-

es be proactive? The Christian Science Monitor addresses these questions in relation to the Oakland shooting.

The shooter, One Goh, was from South Korea. He had difficulty adjusting to the language barrier, was a victim of bullying, and was expelled by the university for anger-management problems. The university clearly had knowledge of Goh's aggressive tendencies beforehand and should have exercised more proactive measures.

As this pattern of bullying, expulsion, and violence repeats across college campuses, other universities are noticing the need for proactivity and guidance counseling as well.

Proactive measures some universities are taking include

threat assessment teams made up of administrators, law enforcement, public relations, computer services, and guidance counselors. At times, these teams run training courses for students to teach them how to deal with an attack.

Dr. Bethany Schuttinga, Vice President of Student Services, is the Coordinator for the Crisis Management Team at Dordt College. She agrees that proactive measures are important. Dr. Schuttinga focuses on creating relationships with law enforcement agencies so that Dordt has ready assistance.

In the event of an aggressive situation, which could include a shooting at Dordt College, local law enforcement would be the first to respond. Dordt College, like other col-

leges and universities across the nation, has an incorporated proactive awareness of individuals who may be in crisis and have motive to create a possible threat, according to Schuttinga.

"It is important for every institution to exercise several scenarios, to determine effective processes and protocol for responding to crisis on the campus," says Dr. Schuttinga. She realizes that each situation is different but is confident that through training exercises, proactive threat assessment, and trusted relationships with capable local law enforcement, the risks are minimized for the campus.

While others might worry about campus security, Dordt students should have no fear, but rather, should be proactive.

Dordt to announce new president

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

As President Carl Zylstra prepares to retire, the next Dordt College President is expected to be selected and announced by Friday, April 20.

“The search committee has done their work. Now the board has to interview the person,” President Carl Zylstra said

If all goes according to plan, the new president will be presented at 1 p.m. in The Grille area of the Campus Center.

“They anticipate this will all go well. That’s why they scheduled the one o’clock meeting to announce the person,” Zylstra explained.

President Zylstra and retiring Professor James Schaap said that whoever is chosen for the position needs to remember what the college stands for as he or

she prepares for the job.

“I would hope that the next president is not only well versed in Reformed theology but deeply committed to it because my sense is those ideas remain the future of the institution. You take out what is Dordt’s calling card and we’re in trouble,” Schaap said.

“Keep your mission focus. Keep your academic excellence, and do it within a cost structure that’s accessible for people,” Zylstra said.

Provost Erik Hoekstra and Schaap have expressed their hopes for the future president.

“I would say it would be a good thing for this president to have [former President] Haan’s charming, strong personality. It would be good for this president to also have the kind of firmness of commitment that characterized [former President] Hulst, and it would be good also for this



Photo by Aanna Stadem

president to have some of Zylstra’s desire to be a part of larger conversations about the place of higher education in our culture,” Schaap said.

“There will be things that will be done differently, but

I trust differently in terms of things that are very appropriate for what God has in store for Dordt College,” Hoekstra said.

As a word of advice, Zylstra plans to give the same

advice that was given to him when he became president of Dordt 16 years ago.

“Don’t ever try to be anything you’re not. They appointed you for who you are,” Zylstra said.

Bestselling author Bret Lott visits Dordt



Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

Bret Lott, author of Oprah’s Book Club selection *Jewel*, visited Dordt’s Fiction Writing classes and read to the public on Thursday April 12.

Author of 13 books and a professor at College of Charleston in South Carolina, Lott discussed his own roundabout way of becoming a writer, as well as the work involved in writing a novel as a Christian.

“There’s a reason not everyone’s a writer,” Lott said in his public reading to a laughing audience.

A common topic in Lott’s discussions Thursday was on being a Christian author in the public eye. Lott’s novels have received high public rating and have made the *New York Times* Best Seller’s list.

Lott said that Christian writing was simply “telling the truth in love, warts and all. You write with Christ with you.”

Writing in this way should

“confront the self with the self,” he said. He also discussed how writing should challenge the reader, not preach or simply be about the author.

Lott admits that many of his inspirations come from his own life, and that this is necessary for writing to be real and truthful.

“You’re a mercenary—running raids on your own life. People think you’ve got to make [stories] up. No. You don’t,” he said, particularly about his novel *Jewel*.

Lott found this writing method after reading the works of Flannery O’Connor, who theorizes the Christian stance on writing by suggesting that “art is a gift back to the God who created you,” Lott paraphrased.

Lott’s illustrious writing career nearly ended prematurely in graduate school when a professor told him “there was really no reason for him to be there.” Despite the disappointments early on, Lott stuck with his ambition and remained in graduate school with the encouragement of his wife.

After finding inspiration through authors such as Raymond Carver, Marilynne Robinson, and Flannery O’Conner, Bret Lott found his niche and continues writing today.

Continuation of *Is Dordt losing sight of its Reformed vision?*

...“Reformed worship,” I need tradition, I need a liturgy, I need an organ, I need a responsive reading. I think our Reformed theology has a way bigger umbrella than just that. I think we confuse our cultural background with our actual theological background and we get in to a lot of trouble when we do that.”

President Carl Zylstra wants to remind people that campus ministry at Dordt is not meant to be a church service. He stated, “We don’t do liturgical worship here; we do student and academic worship. It’s focused around who we are as an academic community. So that makes it different from what you’d find in a church, for instance.”

Zylstra went on to say, “I think a ‘Reformed perspective’ is not, first of all, style of music or format of speaking and planning of events; a ‘Reformed perspective’ is [asking the question] ‘what does it take to focus on who God is, what does it take this group of people to focus on who God is, and what does it take to deepen our understanding of what it is that God wants us to do?’ -- and then to mold our lives according to his word.”

Another level that this topic is being discussed is on the administrative and student-based level. Some faculty members see a shift in the way the college presents itself in order to bring in more students. Because of the social and economic changes in

today’s culture, sometimes it seems as though the only way to bring in students is to do what the other colleges are doing, according to Professor Sewell.

“I think it’s becoming an open question as to what extent does the Reformed worldview actually control the decision-making of the college,” said Sewell. “There’s some kind of contention within the college, and there are faculty who have increasing reservations about whether or not the college is becoming rather too broad in its outlooks--probably to be sure that it gets plenty of customers. You’ve got to keep the students coming in. So that can tend to make it too much like an academic supermarket. What happens when the spirit of the times combine with movements in society? What happens when they don’t quite mesh with what you think?”

Lief made a similar point, saying, “I believe everyone here at Dordt has good intentions, and I think we want to live this out in all of these different areas, whether it be administration or campus ministries or in the classroom; but I think sometimes we kind of butt up against the brokenness and difficulties of living in a world where sin is real.”

Lief explained that there is a real temptation for a Christian college to mimic what higher education looks like in the United States and then to just pull the Bible into it, making it Christian. He said, “I think that

to really be a Reformed institution means to hold everything in kind of a tension – We always have to constantly ask questions about our motives and our presuppositions. Why are we doing it this way? Is this because it’s truly a Christian approach or is it simply an expedient way of doing it because it’s efficient and because it’s the way everybody else is doing it?”

With the changing times and the inevitable shift in culture, Dordt is not immune to the effects that bear down upon all organizations. According to some faculty members, Dordt need not give in to the same consumer mindset of the surrounding universities. The difficult question raised by many is not one easily answered. That question is “how?”

Some believe Dordt College remains true to its Reformed foundations, while others are wary of the path they see Dordt traveling down. . Changes will inevitably be made with the appointment of a new president, who takes the office next fall.

“There’s a new president coming in,” said Sewell. “I don’t know who it is, but a new man, a new woman, might be able to surmount, address, or deal with emerging challenges and strengthen the college where presently it is weak. I don’t want to be a kind of doomsday prophet, but there are various challenges. It’s not impossible to meet them, though.”

The Beatles, Twitter, and Joel Venhuisen...it must be NCDC!



Shanna Braunschweig
Staff Writer

Photo by Ellie Dykstra

NCDC is Northwestern College and Dordt College’s version of *American Idol*, so if you are a fan of the hit TV show *American Idol*, you will love this!

The first-round was scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 14 at Northwestern’s chapel. However, due to the weather forecast, it was re-scheduled for Sunday, April

15, following GIFT.

Dordt College’s very own, Joel Venhuisen, was one of the Emcees at NCDC. When asked how he was chosen for the glorified position of Emcee, Venhuisen said, “I’m just terrifically funny and everybody knows it, I guess.”

He was not alone on stage, though; Cha Chi from Northwestern was his female cohost. In all seriousness, he said he was probably chosen as the

host because they didn’t have any other ideas and because he hosted TX. “Also because I beat Jory up and took the job away from him. I threatened him, told him that I would not make juice with him again unless I got to host.”

“There are 10 groups of contestants, five from each school, but only four of them will move on to the final round,” said Venhuisen. “All 10 will prepare two songs and

perform one on Saturday. The four groups who move on will be announced following their performances and get to sing their remaining song.” The audience gets to vote in addition to the judges.

The final round will be held in the BJ Haan auditorium at 10:15 pm, on April 21. The theme is The Beatles, so everyone will be singing a Beatles’ song. There’s also a possibility that contestants will be dressing up.

“I was surprised by the amount of people that showed up. I expected it to not be very full,” said Venhuisen, when asked about the turnout due to the rescheduling. “There was a pretty good Dordt crowd.”

“I think I should have hosted,” said Jory Kok, who suddenly interrupted the interview. “I would say Alex Geleynse should win the contest,” said Kok, “because he’s standing up in my wedding.”

“I wouldn’t be a very good host if I played favorites,” said Venhuisen.

The actual judges for the competition are Mark Eekoff from Admissions and Laremy DeVries, owner of the Fruited Plain. The third judge is from Northwestern but is still being established.

“The cool thing they did on Sunday night was to use Twitter. They made a hash tag

NCDC 2012 and people could tweet live to the event,” said Venhuisen. “After a performer, the tweets would come up on the big screen. This added some humor to the event and allowed the audience to voice their opinion.”

“Some tweeted saying there needed to be more Jory Kok at the competition,” said Jory Kok.

“I don’t think that anybody said that,” said Venhuisen. “There is clearly some hostility between the two former TX hosts.

One of the favorite tweets of the night was, “There is a very pretty girl on stage.” So as you can see, audience members are allowed to voice their true opinion no matter how unrelated the matter.

“Make sure everybody brings their ipods, smart phones, or even laptops to the event so you can tweet your opinion. It makes the event way more fun,” said Venhuisen.

Show up this Saturday for a night full of talent and laughter!

Ag Day to bring cows, sheep, and combines to campus

Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

If you happen to be wandering campus on Friday, April 20, do not be alarmed if you run into some sheep, cows, combines, and more than a few agriculture students. It’s just the annual Ag Day, hosted by the Dordt College Ag Club.

This event is open to the community as well as Dordt students. High school students will also be there to participate in the livestock judging contest, and elementary students have the opportunity to participate in several learning experiences.

The day is entirely run by Dordt ag students and faculty. Throughout the day, Ag 105 students will be giving safety presentations that they devel-

oped in class, and the Ag 101 students will be showing off the calves and lambs they have been raising for the past few weeks. The pre-vet students will also be conducting demonstrations with assistance from local veterinarians.

Games will take place during the modified community hour, at 1:00 pm. They include round bale rolling, hay bucking, and a costume relay. There will be male and female divisions, and there are cash prizes for first place.

For the first time this year, Dordt students will also be able to compete in the livestock judging contest. This will happen at the same time as the high school contest at 11:00 am. Cash prizes and a plaque are offered for this as well.

The Dordt Ag Club is looking forward to sharing their passions with their fellow students, so stop on by to pet the lambs, sit in the combines, grab lunch, or just cheer your friends on in the games. But most of all, have fun!

The following is a schedule of events for the day:

- 10:30 am - Registration for games begins
- 11:00 am – College/high school livestock judging contest begins
- 11:30 am-1:00 pm – Lunch served
- 1:00-2:00 pm – Games played
- 10:30-2:00 pm – Demonstrations/Projects



Photo by Anna Stadem

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Features

College is over. Now what?

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

With graduation right around the corner, seniors are looking for jobs and planning their futures.

Because it’s nearing the end of the semester, many underclassmen are spending their last couple months of the semester searching and applying for summer jobs and ministry opportunities to fill the three month break before returning for a new semester at Dordt. However, seniors are in a completely different situation during their last semester in Sioux Center.

Many seniors spend their final year traveling to various locations across the United States and Canada, interviewing for teaching jobs, medical schools, and other graduate programs. Others search for jobs online, send applications across the world, and make use of Dordt’s Career Services department’s advice and professional preparations.

Chris De Jong is the director of Career Services and Calling at Dordt College. He and assistant Ellen Mouw provide both current students and alumni with free resume and cover letter help, interviewing skills, mock interviews, and career advising. “Many seniors still don’t know what they want to do,” De Jong said. De Jong says he doesn’t work with every senior, but he would definitely like to. He highly encourages seniors to set up meetings for any questions or help they need, concerning job searching and the future.

Many graduating students may not realize that De Jong’s department also works with alumni. After students finish graduate school or are simply ready for a new job, they often contact Dordt’s Alumni Office or Career Services for help with resumes.

The Career Services department and Alumni Office also connect present and former students with alumni across the world. Sometimes the alumni are able to provide jobs; other times they simply are available to connect students to churches and housing opportunities.

Despite the challenges and stresses many seniors face upon graduating from Dordt and entering the work force or graduate school education field, Dordt’s academic preparation and Career Services seem to be doing an excellent job.

On average, Dordt’s classes have a high job placement rate. Although statistics for this year’s graduating class won’t be available for another six months, Dordt’s class of 2011 had some normal but impressive figures to boast of.

Of the 200+ students graduating with a bachelor’s degree, about 96% also had either a job or acceptance into a graduate program. Students graduating with an associates of arts degree were between 95 and 100% in job placement or continuing education.

De Jong also shared information about the percentages of students who were placed in jobs or graduate schools fitting their majors. Last year, 65% of students were placed in jobs of their major. Specifically, 100% of accounting, Dutch, and theology majors were placed in their major. Other departments such as English, agriculture, psychology, nursing, and engineering also experienced 100% of their graduates finding a job, although those jobs were not specifically in their major area.



Name: Christina (Van Single)
Hometown: Tacoma
Major: Exercise Science
Favorite Class: Exercise Physiology & Canadian Literature
Favorite Activity: Track
Favorite Event: NC/DC
Next Year’s Plans: Move to Traverse City, MI, with my husband Andrew (Class of 2010); Basically just spend time job searching after I receive my certification for personal training
Five Years Down the Road: Personal trainer in Michigan



Name: Samuel Lee
Hometown: Korea & Philippines
Major: Theology: Biblical Studies
Favorite Class: Old Testament Prophets & Post-Modernism and Calvinism
Favorite Activity: Campus Ministries
Favorite Event: Freshman Olympics
Next Year’s Plans: Calvin Seminary
Five Years Down the Road: Missionary pastor overseas somewhere



Name: Kaitlyn Hekstra
Hometown: Caledonia, MI
Major: Nursing
Favorite Class: NURS 390: Professional Practice
Favorite Activity: AMOR Liberia
Favorite Event: GIFT/P&W
Next Year’s Plans: Hopefully find a job anywhere to pay off loans, buy a house, etc...
Five Years Down the Road: Career in nursing in Africa



Name: Stephen Pederson
Hometown: Gretna, NE
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Favorite Class: CORE 145 (with Fessler) & Control Systems
Favorite Activity: PLIA (Birmingham, Bozeman, Neon, Toronto)
Favorite Event: Fiesta & Block Party
Next Year’s Plans: Full-time staff at a children’s home in Henderson, NE
Five Years Down the Road: I’m not going to make any plans, but I do know that God has called me to youth ministry, so I’ll be doing that in whichever form it takes.



Name: Joe Lammers
Hometown: Denver, CO
Major: Biology
Favorite Class: Human Anatomy & Physiology
Favorite Activity: Soccer and Track
Favorite Event: PLIA Camden
Next Year’s Plans: University of Colorado: Denver Physician’s Assistant Graduate Program
Five Years Down the Road: Practicing as a PA in Denver while snowboarding on the weekends and continuing to beat Donkey Kong over and over again (see picture)



Name: Hannah Cooper
Hometown: Brookfield, WI
Major: Social Work
Favorite Class: Worldview and Societal Transformation
Favorite Activity: Intramurals, WOP
Favorite Event: TX, PLIA, Jr./Sr. Olympics
Next Year’s Plans: Getting married to a Dutch boy and moving back to Sioux Center. Living the dream!
Five Years Down the Road: Using my social work and Spanish by being involved in a community somewhere.



Name: Nicole Scholten
Hometown: Inwood, IA
Major: Elementary Education, Middle School Endorsement
Favorite Class: EDUC 334 Teaching Science
Favorite Activity: Basketball Intramurals
Favorite Event: Performing in TX with my roommate, WOP, NC/DC
Next Year’s Plans: Teach 8th grade science at Westminster Christian Academy in St. Louis; Most importantly, see where God wants me to be used in teaching and other areas of the city
Five Years Down the Road: Teaching middle school somewhere with mountains



Name: Brandon McCracken
Hometown: Tracy, CA
Major: Business Administration
Favorite Class: CORE 399: Sex Section
Favorite Activity: Men’s Golf Team
Favorite Event: All-Campus Block Party and Upperclassmen Olympics
Next Year’s Plans: Move to Denver; Work for Brothers Re-development
Five Years Down the Road: Living in Denver and doing something awesome with business!

Senioritis: Graduation



Adrian Hielema
Columnist

As we go on, we remember, all the times we spent together. And as our lives cha- No. Stop that. This is not high school. I refuse to watch a montage of clips from the past four years set to a 12 year-old song by Vitamin C while professors sniffle into their handkerchiefs. My graduation is not going to be some emotional sob fest. My graduation is going to be....

....probably pretty subdued actually. I'll probably accomplish some of the things on my college bucket list, but not all of them. For instance, as much as I may want to re-assemble President Zylstra's car in his office, or scale the clock tower whilst Mulan's I'll Make A Man Out Of You plays in the background, I probably won't use up the last of my "levels" in a blaze of national news-worthy glory.

I'll toss up my cap (maybe my gown too, just to make things interesting), hug a few friends, and be forced to promise an inconsolable Prof. Fessler that I'll visit from time to time. And then I'll drive away, into a corn-filled sunset, awaiting the inevitable pang of jealousy that will come in August as my underclassmen friends post Facebook statuses about returning to Dordt.

And that will be it. Four years of molasses-slow internet and doodle-filled notebooks later, I'll be done. The college will survive without me, and according to some, may even thrive. As much as I may deserve them, there will be no statues erected in my honor and no effigies burned. I will quietly join the great cloud of "Alumni," and eagerly await the letters from my Alma-mater asking for donations.

But I imagine that one day, several years down the road, my offspring will ask to see this place that they keep hearing all the lame stories about. And I'll point to the years 2008-2012 on an imaginary timeline in the manure-scented sky and say to them: "This...this was my time." And they'll respond, in reverence: "Wow. So that's when the place went to s***."

Acting Oxy-Moronic

I'm an oxymoron. How so? I am casually wholehearted. Why? Let me explain...

Joel 2:12-13 (NKJV) "*Now, therefore*" says the LORD, "*Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.*" So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

For those of you who are wondering, the definition of rend is "to split or tear apart or in pieces." How easy it is to think that these verses don't apply to me though. After all, I'm a pretty good person. I've never traveled too far off the path. All that weeping and mourning and fasting must apply to other people. You know, the ones who really need God's grace. Me? Thanks, but I'll be fine just sitting over here in this corner tearing my "clothes" a little bit...being casually wholehearted.

But then there's other people—those who have truly rendered their heart to God. They're full of life, joy, hope—you name it. They love to tell others about God's grace. They have compassion and they're really kind and sacrificial for others—even those who aren't to them. Basically, they act like Jesus. They love



Danae Geels
Columnist

Him with their whole heart.

I want that too! But there's a problem--I'm going to have to get out of my *comfortable corner*, get rid of my "clothing" that I've become quite good at tearing, and actually do what Joel 2 tells me.

I'm going to have to turn back to God by weeping, mourning, and fasting. It's going to be really uncomfortable, and I'm definitely not looking forward to it. But I know deep down, this is what I really want and need.

And it would be extra scary if Joel didn't remind us that God is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, great in kindness, and that he relents from doing harm. So even though

My Grandfather's Country

As I sit in this dull, tasteless and utterly plain room, pondering over what to write, I cannot help but realize this strange sense of oddness. My brain wanders from the colors of the trees outside and the deep shades of blue that streak across the sky, and yet I still have the feeling of uneasiness. I am not sure what it is or whether it is anything important. As I take another sip of my bland and cold cup of library coffee, I get hit with this sense of exactly what's on my heart.

It's everything. All of life and all of my friends. I have this sense of longing, and yet I am surrounded by brothers and sisters in Christ. What is this sense of longing? Why is it eating away at my brain like a worm tunneling itself through an apple core? I ask God "What is this?"

At that moment I turn and look at my plans for after graduation. It's in this single, uninterrupted moment that I realize exactly what this is. I am ready to start down a new journey in my life. My time as a student is coming to a close, and it's time to embrace my true calling. For the past 16 to 17 years, I have been called to be a student, first and foremost. However, this pathway is nearing a crossing, and it's time to step onto new ground.

I sit here and stare out the



Hank Houtman
Columnist

windows, wondering if this is what our past generations felt in their hearts when they felt it was time to dedicate their lives to a purpose or a certain direction. I sit in this chair and ponder over the past plans and places I have been over my years as a student. I am amazed by one reoccurring theme: the fact that no matter what you want to do or where you want to be, it's only possible if what we do accords to our God the Father's plan. Over the past years all of us have fallen, and yet we have still got back on our feet and kept going. I dare you to say that you did it all on your own, for you know that someone was with you the entire way. If it was not for the will of our Father, we would not be where we are today.

Just like our parents, grandparents and their parents before them, we have

I'm not looking forward to the painful process of "rending", I'm definitely looking forward to everything I'll receive from God along the way.

Maybe then I'll stop being an oxymoron and start being truly wholehearted. In fact, there won't be anything casual about my life. Because God's helped me tear my heart to pieces and there's nothing left of it that's capable of being casual, I'll invest my whole heart into everything as I passionately live for Jesus.

And then maybe, just maybe, people will eventually look at me from their comfortable corners and want what I have, too. Maybe they'll notice something is different about me. Maybe I'll be able to help them leave their corner and go through the most painful and beautiful process anyone would possibly make.

I wish I could say that this rending process is a one-time deal, but it's actually a lifetime process. I'm still rending my heart, but I'm also definitely experiencing God's grace, mercy, and kindness in ways I never dreamed of. I'm never going to be perfectly wholehearted this side of heaven, but I can rest assured that God's amazing grace is helping me become less oxymoronic each day.

all fallen. What makes us different, however, is the strength and happiness we have drawn from our Father in heaven. While many have fallen and stayed down crawling, we have picked up our pack and kept pushing forward. While the wounds have healed and the scars are ever present, we have still trekked forwards. The scars are there as a daily reminder to us

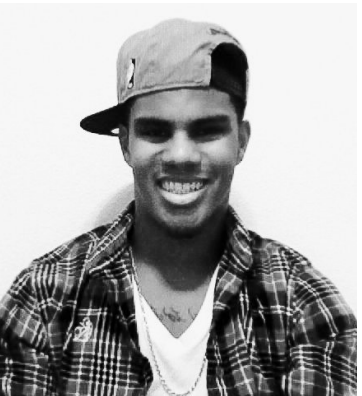
So I challenge you, look at your scars, look to your past, look to your history, look to your heritage, and do not simply shove it away, hoping to forget. Instead, look at everything as nourishment, as motivation, to push forward, helping those who have fallen along the way. Pressing forwards to live a life that will make a difference, a life that will testify to those around you that you will never settle for second best, but rather that you will always strive to be the very best in every aspect of your life. Never settle for anything. Never accept the phrase "I am not good enough." You are the creation of our God! You are the living testament that there is a creator! Courage and Honor my friendsCourage and Honor...

Go with God my friends.

Signing out... ..

Henderikes Houtman is no longer available.

The Hendy Show



Alex Henderson
Columnist

Is it summer yet? I ask myself that every morning and every morning I fall back into the same old routine.

I usually start the morning smashing the snooze button on my Black Berry in a sleepy haze.

I try to grab a few bites of breakfast before I head to class and then I just sit.

Sometimes it takes a whole class period for me to realize I am in class and before I know it the day has passed.

These past few weeks my homework assignments have challenged me more than I have bargained for. Can anyone relate?

Everyone always told me that the past four years would pass by quickly; Well, they didn't. But, they were the best years of my life thus far.

I have done things that I never thought were possible. Justin Beiber was right, "Never, Say Never."

In the end, we're all a few years wiser and a couple of tests away from the seasons that host no schoolwork.

I can't decide whether or not I am too homesick, happy, or bitter about finishing school just yet.

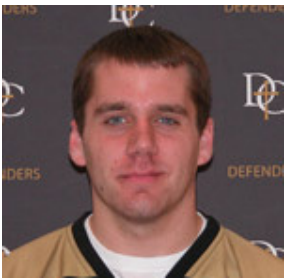
So if I am nonchalant about something current, it isn't that I'm fighting for sleep. I just don't know how to absorb all the feelings of capping off my college career.

It's been real, my friends; I can say that I've lived the Dordt experience.

Really quick, since this is my last article, I want to wish you all an eventful summer break. But, don't forget to tackle those finals before you officially clock out for the semester.

Harmy’s Army

(of thoughts)



Jordan Harmelink
Sports Editor

Today (March 26th) is one of my favorite days in all of professional sports. Today is the start of the National Football League Collegiate Draft. For the last three years I have assembled my own mock draft (with a little help from ESPN.com and Scouts.com). Instead of subjecting you to all 32 teams’ first round picks, I thought I would pick some of Dordt’s favorite NFL teams instead.

1st Round:
3rd: Minnesota Vikings-OT-Matt Kalil-USC. Had a hard time deciding between an offensive tackle and a wide receiver. Vikings need help at both positions, but it starts up front in protecting their young QB.

6th: St. Louis Rams-WR-Justin Blackmon-Oklahoma State. Like the Vikings, the Rams need a lot of help all around. It’s too early for them to go after a defensive back, something they may need more than a receiver, but they will get a much needed offensive boost with this year’s top WR in Blackmon.

11th: Kansas City Chiefs-OG-David DeCastro-Stanford. Not a real big name at Stanford especially with Andrew Luck, but by far the best run-blocking guard in the draft. Chief’s running backs Jamaal Charles and Peyton Hillis will welcome DeCastro with open arms.

14th: Dallas Cowboys-CB-Morris Claiborne-LSU. The Cowboys let go of their long time corner Terrence Newman and need a young replacement to compliment

Michael Jenkins on the other side. Claiborne is a ball-hawking corner who can step in and cover anyone.

18th: San Diego Chargers-DE-Courtney Upshaw-Alabama. Though it was hard not to give the Chargers a WR here since they let go of Vincent Jackson, the Chargers have had a hard time getting after the QB last few seasons. Upshaw will jump in right away and put up Von Miller type rookie numbers.

19th: Chicago Bears-WR-Michael Floyd-Notre Dame. Just because the Bears signed Brandon Marshall doesn’t mean that they are set at the WR position. If it wasn’t for Blackmon, Floyd would go in the top-ten. Jay Cutler needs as many reliable targets as he can get in that complex offense.

23rd: Detroit Lions-CB-Dre Kirkpatrick-Alabama. The Lions could use some help on the offensive line, but another lockdown corner would make their defense that much more dangerous. With Kirkpatrick, the Lions will be daring teams to throw the ball.

24th: Pittsburgh Steelers-MLB-Dont’a Hightower-Alabama. With James Farrior’s retirement, the Steelers have a huge hole in the middle of their defense. Hightower matched with Lawrence Timmons would keep the middle of the Steeler’s defense stingy for the next 10 years.

25th: Denver Broncos-DT-Jerel Worthy-Michigan State. Impressed scouts with his combine workout. The Broncos have two great outside pass-rushers in Von Miller and Elvis Dumervil, but they need help up the middle.

28th: Green Bay Packers-DE-Whitney Mercilus-Illinois. The Packers could use a RB, but their defensive line is in need of the most help to help B.J. Raji. “Show me what you got, what you got, Whitney.”

Ask an Athlete



Name: Jordan Shaffer
Major: Business Administration-Marketing
Class: Junior
Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska

Favorite thing about lacrosse?
Probably the physical aspect of the game. When you get the opportunity to lay someone out, it really gets the adrenaline pumping. Also, coming out of a scrum with a groundball because it’s a little harder for D-poles to do and when you have the opportunity to scoop the ball and race it down the other end of the field, that’s pretty exciting.

How would you describe lacrosse? I would say it’s a combination of football, hockey, and soccer; probably not quite as much running as soccer, though.

What’s your job on defense? Main objective is to keep the other team from scoring.

You have a pair of home games coming up this weekend and one of them is against your biggest rival Creighton. Talk about that a little bit.
I only played against them (Creighton) in one game. They’re pretty scrappy and play dirty physically. Dordt kind of prides themselves as being a physical team. A couple of guys and I already scouted Creighton and they

seem pretty fast and quick with the ball. It will be a challenge for us both offensively and defensively, but it should be a lot fun.

You came to Dordt on basketball scholarship. Why did you choose to play lacrosse instead?
Lack of playing time and I busted my butt in practice and it was a waste of time for me. Lacrosse is a lot easier to manage with time now. I think I am more passionate about lacrosse than basketball at this point.

Lacrosse is having a pretty rough season record wise. Thoughts on that?
The biggest thing is a lack of experience. We’re a young team. It’s up to the leaders of the team to get them going in the right direction. Hopefully we can pick up a pair of wins at home to wrap up the season.

Favorite sports team: Nebraska Cornhusker’s football

Favorite place to study/do homework? Preferably my room, but I seem to get more

done in the library. So you’re dating a girl from Northwestern. How do you explain that? (laughs) No comment.

Favorite class at Dordt so far? Drawing 101 or a film class I’m taking now. Marketing is pretty fun.

Dog or cat? Dog, definitely.

Favorite movie? Saving Private Ryan

To you, what is the most embarrassing thing that can happen to a person at Dordt?
I would have to say falling down the stairs in the library. You’re stranded on a desert island.

What three things you taking?
Lacrosse stick, lacrosse ball, and a lacrosse net.

Dordt baseball swings into spring

Justin Pastoor
Staff Writer

Dordt baseball is in full swing this season as Coach Jeff Schouten’s group has starts off the season with an 11-23 record. The team began the season with a trip to Manhattan, Kansas for a four game series with Manhattan Christian, and continued the season during spring break in Arizona, with nine more games.

With the growth of many players on the team and more depth at a number of positions, the team has made many strides from last year. Many underclassmen are stepping

up and taking on college level baseball and learning it all in stride.

The team is led by a group of six seniors; Ryan Bass, Zach Staudt, Eric Anderson, Brad Trimm, Travis Dekkers, and Eric Torgerson.

“We have six seniors on this year’s team and they have all been a blessing. They will be missed next season,” said Coach Schouton.

One highlight on the ball diamond this year was when Dekkers broke the all-time hit record at Dordt College. His record breaking hit was a line drive to left field against Mt. Marty. The game was stopped after the hit and Dekkers was awarded the record ball.



Photo by Aanna Stadem

“It was a great accomplishment for Travis,” said Schouten. “He is a natural line driver hitter who has been a consistent player for us during his four years.”

The Defenders will continue to play this week with a string of GPAC games against Briar Cliff and Midland, and then a two game series with Dakota State, Dakota Wes-

leyan and Northwestern. The GPAC tournament play will be held May 3, 4 and 5.

Arts and Entertainment

Final senior art show



Photo by Aanna Stadem

Hannah DeVries
Staff Writer

Art. It surrounds us as we walk through the campus center and pause in the gallery by the Eckhart Lounge. Here a display of artwork is displayed as a part of the Senior Art Show: (Keep Calm and Create Art?) This show is not just for the artist and artwork. There is more here than meets the eye.

The show on display in the Campus Center gallery is the final show in a series of three graduating-senior art exhibits. It is very unique. Professor Jake Van Wyk, coordinator of the show, explains why.

“It’s the first exhibit in a newly adopted policy allowing students to apply for a special exhibit,” said Van Wyk. With approval from the department, students can now showcase several pieces of work that together have a specific theme. Which is exactly what this year’s seniors have done.

Senior Michelle Stam, an Art Graphic Design major, is showcasing her sculpture. When asked about what she was hoping to portray through her work, Stam replied, “My sculptural installation deals with relationships between people and how we view others. Each figure was designed to represent people who we

may look down on, ignore, or not wish to deal with.”

“Rarely have students produced a thematic and comprehensive exhibit of new work in their last semester for the exhibit,” said Van Wyk. “This show intertwines themes of human experience.” This show’s uniqueness also comes from a combination of techniques—sculptural assemblage, photography, graphic design, and digital software—used to portray a theme.

When asked what kind of impact she was hoping her art would have on her viewers, Stam said, “I would love for them to change the way they view people they think are different than themselves just because they’ve never made the effort to get to know them.”

“My faith and beliefs are very important to me, and I cannot disconnect them from my artwork—and I would not want to,” said Stam.

Other artists who have displayed artwork in the Campus Center say that there is more beneath the surface of their work. Carrie Goff, a Fine Arts Graphic Design major, said that her work was about stories. She hopes that when people observe it they will “see a connection with their world in a different light, and to be filled with wonder about all the different stories that are

behind a subject.”

Annemarie Osinga, an Art Graphic Design major, commented that most of her inspiration comes from the object she focuses on in her work. Instead of simply recreating the object, she creates a scene, a story, and even a personality around it.

“All these pieces make this character—people don’t have to ask, they can look at this character and know who it is,” Osinga said.

Even the location where the art takes place has an effect on the art. “We are at a place where everyone is taking pictures of the same people, but we make each picture unique to ourselves,” Osinga commented. “We are each able to create unique photography even though it’s of the same thing.”

While this is the last series in the Senior Art Show, “a wrap-up ‘super show,’ a combination of all ten senior’s work will be on display during exam week and through commencement.

“To Be or Not To Be?”

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

Unfortunately, this year’s performance of Hamlet is the latter. After considerable debate, the staff and administration decided that the Dordt Theatre Department’s spring production of Hamlet would not be performed. The decision was difficult for all involved, as students and faculty alike had put in hours of work towards the production. “I know the hours spent in preparations on the part of the production team, designers, technicians, and actors,” stated theater professor Teresa Ter Haar, “I regret that that work can’t be shared publicly.”

According to all involved, the experience was invaluable, even if an actual performance will never happen. The student cast as Hamlet, junior Nate Scheuers, stated that “the experience was definitely valuable . . . Disappointment is a valuable experience, too. Life doesn’t always work out how we want it and sometimes that is really good to experience . . . there is still a life to live and theatre to do. I’m not going to waste it wishing for Hamlet to come back—I’m going to live it and be awesome like always.”

So where does Dordt theatre head from here? With two respected professor leaving and the spring show cancelled, it would be all too easy for the department to hang their heads in pity and expect others to feel sorry for them. But the department is already busy replacing staff and planning next semester, with one new hire currently set to begin in August. Josiah Wallace, who is graduating from Baylor in May with his MFA in directing, will be moving to Sioux Center this summer with his family in order to begin his duties as the new acting/directing professor. The search for a technical director is still underway, with one candidate already being interviewed and a second one set to interview this week.

Plans for next semester are also underway. “Next semester

will be a good one,” Ter Haar said. It will certainly be a bit of a “rebuilding” semester as we integrate two new members into the department, plus a strong incoming freshmen class of theatre students. We’re planning some different types of theatre events in order to accommodate all the new members of the department (both staff and students).” Among these events include a series of theatre-related workshops, as well as several student-directed pieces, including theatre major Nathan Spark’s senior show. Unfortunately, due to time constraints put on by new staff hires, there will be no mainstage production during Parent’s Weekend. However, a mainstage show is being planned for the spring, along with Nate Scheuer’s senior project, which plans to bring plenty of excitement.

Although the cancelling of Hamlet was tough to swallow for all involved, the department’s close-knit, family atmosphere proved to be invaluable as members of the cast and crew dealt with the disappointment. “Theatre is awesome,” Scheuers stated, “Even though we had this major setback, we are all very strong and tight enough to get through anything together.”

“I have personally been so grateful for the support and understanding of our students during this difficult time,” Ter Haar wrote, “Whenever I have doubts or concerns about what I do, I think of the students I work with - both theatre students and students in my classes - and those doubts melt away.”

Theatre may not be the most glamorous activity on campus; it may not be the most well-funded, popular, or even appreciated. But for those who truly love theatre, nothing else Dordt has to offer is more important. Those who have stepped out on a limb and involved themselves in the department have found much more than some crazy students and loving professors, they have found open arms accepting them into a family.

Chamber Orchestra to travel to Europe

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

It’s been about twelve years since the last European tour, but Dordt College’s Chamber Orchestra is traveling to Europe once again to perform concerts and travel from May 7-18.

Although the Chamber Orchestra hasn’t been to Europe since 1999, they go on tour around the country every year.

“In 2006 the Concert Band traveled to Eastern Europe and in 2009 they went to the Netherlands. Now, 2012 is the Chamber Orchestra’s turn to travel to Germany, France, and the Netherlands,” said Bradley Miedema, Director and Assistant Professor of Music.

Although they will be busy performing, the Orchestra will also have time to travel and sight-see.

“Thankfully there will be plenty of time to visit some wonderful sites along the way, especially sites important to the Reformation and to composers like Bach and Handel,” said Miedema.

Many of the students are

looking forward to traveling the most, especially Mia Kornelis, who will be staying later to do some independent traveling.

“This is the second time I’ve been to Europe so partly I’m excited to see some places that I’ve never seen before. I know some people, myself included, are staying after the tour to see even more places so I’m really excited,” said Kornelis.

Matt Wiersma has never been to Europe and is looking forward to experiencing the culture.

“I am most looking forward to staying in the homes of our hosts, so that I will have the chance to learn of the differences in living styles, family practices, religiosity, and other such things,” said Wiersma.

Part of the excitement of going on tour to other countries is being able to play in the old buildings and churches.

“We are playing mostly in churches, including some very historically important ones, but also at a school and a retirement home,” said Miedema.

But travel does not come cheap, so the Orchestra has held three main fundraisers to help

raise funds. They have had a shirt and sweatshirt sale, a tip night at Pizza Ranch, and most recently, a spaghetti dinner.

“We had a wonderful turnout for the dinner and enjoyed very strong support from the com-

munity. We are blessed indeed!” said Miedema.

The Orchestra will have their Pre-Tour Concert on Saturday night, May 5, at 7:30 pm in the BJ Haan Auditorium, so be sure to come and support them before

they leave.

“I realize that most students will already be gone for the summer, but we invite anyone who is still around that weekend to come enjoy our tour program,” said Miedema.



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What if...

A very special “what if” dedicated to some very “special” people



By Alex Updike

I want to go out with a bang. Seeing as my last article, at least according to my mom, was not up to my usual standards (thanks for putting all the articles on-line mystery “webmaster”), I feel like this final “what if” needs to be particularly stellar. So I followed the longstanding tradition that has permeated throughout history when it comes to figuring out a great idea – I took it from someone else.

A few weeks ago, I asked my roommates for ideas regarding what my next “what if” should be. Within the 20-minute string of ridiculous suggestions (which included “what if we had hands that grew out of our cheeks?”) stood one that out shown the rest. This suggestion frightened me to no end, but also sparked the tiniest of flames inside my creative mind that has now been fanned to exponential proportions. The question . . . what if Southview 304 did not exist?

For those of you who just passed out due to excessive anxiety, it is ok; it’s only hypothetical. For those of you not panicking, you obviously don’t know the gravity of this hypothetical situation! SV304 is where Nathan Friend (along with me and our other three studly roommates) lives! And now that I have every girl’s attention on campus, I’ll just point out that I’m single too. Anyway, I’ve allowed myself to become sidetracked. Let’s take a long, hard look down the dark alley that is Dordt’s campus without SV304.

Frist of all, without SV304, the entire building of Southview would make no sense. Room numbers would go 301, 302, 303, and then 305. The amount of questions this raises is astronomical. Does room 305 just take

the place of 304? Then how do we handle the fact that odd numbers are now on the wrong side of the hallway? Do we just skip the space where 304 used to be? What do we put there? Or do we just have a ridiculously large amount of wall where the room once stood? Do we have to make all the other floors match? And where is the money coming for all this? This was definitely not in Vision 2020!

Secondly, campus would most assuredly lack awesomeness without the guys of SV304 living together. Without the room existing, we simply do not exist in the same context as we have all semester - and that’s a crying shame. That means no golf-cart joy-rides, no late-night footie-pajama excursions, no old-man pipe-smoking, and no epic dance with 60 people crammed into a cleared out living room. Plus, without SV304 existing, SV303 wouldn’t have a pet mouse to kidnap, thus leaving them cookie-less and depressed. As you can see, SV 304 brings joy to this campus . . . and baked goods to kidnappers. We care about the joy of others -- can this campus really afford to lose that?

Finally, where would we all live if our room didn’t exist? Stuff happens in that room, unspeakable occurrences, that nobody else should have to deal with. I mean, I would have no problem finding new living arrangements, but some of the other guys, I don’t know about. Without a place to live, they drop out of school and go back to Canada. But with multiple years of American living, they simply can’t deal with the boredom that comes with being exclusively Canadian. They move back to America, but since they never graduated college, they can’t find jobs and become homeless and lazy. Eventually, they become the only two drifters in Sioux Center. Their stench and the general mean-spiritedness of one of them (who will remain nameless) drives people away from Sioux Center and into other towns. Sioux Center’s economy then collapses and Dordt is forced to shut down due to lack of community support and funds.

So there you have it; without SV304 existing, neither does Dordt. You’re welcome.

Feature Photo



“Juniors and Seniors have been enjoying the Olympic weekly events. Steve Olson had the amazing opportunity to touch a fish during the photo scavenger hunt while **Aanna Stadem** stood safely to the side taking pictures.”

Top 10 Questions asked on “Yahoo Questions”

Adam McDonald
Editor

Attention: I haven’t changed these at all. They are 100% real and are left in their original, horribly punctuated form.

10) “How can I prevent Pearl Harbor from happening?”

Best answer: You need a Delorean, a Flux-capacitor and 1.21 Gigawatts of electricity to make that happen.

9) “Credit Card stuck in computer? How do I get it out?”

Best answer: Turn the computer upside down and shake it.

8) If you die, what happens to your MySpace?

Best answer: It deletes itself. You see when you die a little microchip goes off in your brain and instantly deactivates any accounts you may have. They are inserted a few months after birth, everyone has them.

7) How turn computer monitor into mirror?

Best answer: Get a can of mirror spray paint, point, and spray.

6) “Any teenager clubs???????????????????? My family is going to panama city beach next week and my cousins and I want to go to a club. Is there a club open for 13 year olds and up any night at all?”

Best answer: “ha ha ha yea there is. Its called Chuck E Cheese.”

5) How do you get Youtube to come and film you?

Best answer: *facepalm*

4) What is the countrey Canada all about? I was just wundering what they speak there and where that countrey is?

Best answer: Wow, the American education system really is in crisis.

3) Instead Of Simply Worshipping ‘God’, Why Not Worship Godzilla?

Best answer: I choose to worship God because I prefer worshipping real things over movie characters anytime.

2) Why Doesn’t The Earth Fall Down?

Best answer: Because it can fly.

1) Would my cat like the heat from about 15 seconds in the microwave?

Best answer: Try the dryer instead. (Yahoo removed this question from its feed)



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